A REPORT ON THE AMERICAN FOREST

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION IS WORKING IN THE MID-ATLANTIC STATES.

To many people on the East Coast, the Great American Forest is "somewhere out West." So if you think the Mid-Atlantic States are mostly paved over, you're not alone.

But the fact is that over half of our forests today are east of the Mississippi. Even New Jersey, our most densely populated state, is 40% forested.

Surprisingly, despite the pressures on them, the Mid-Atlantic forests have not only survived, they're thriving, thanks to the innate resilience of Mother Nature and the help of skilled foresters.

The Mid-Atlantic, though the nation's most densely populated region, is still heavily forested.

DEMAND EXPECTED TO DOUBLE.

And it's a good thing. The government says domestic demand for wood and paper products will double by the year 2020. And other demands on the forest are intensifying.

Yet most commercial forestlands* are far less productive than they could be. So every acre will have to grow even more to meet future needs.

This calls for practical conservation in action. And that's what is happening in the Mid-Atlantic.

The forests here provide not only protection for the soil, cover for wildlife and places to hike and hunt, but also a renewable supply of the thousands of wood products we use every day. All this is possible in a multiple-use forest. And that's the key to the forest industry's effort, here and nationwide, to increase productivity of our commercial forests.

It's based on nature's own cycle: planting seeds or seedlings to augment natural regeneration; thinning young trees to give the best a better chance; adding soil nutrients when needed; and harvesting at optimum size.

RECYCLING IMPORTANT TOO.

Recycling is another way to get more out of our forest resources by using them over again. It's particularly important in the populous Mid-Atlantic, where there's not only a large supply of recyclable paper, but also markets for it.

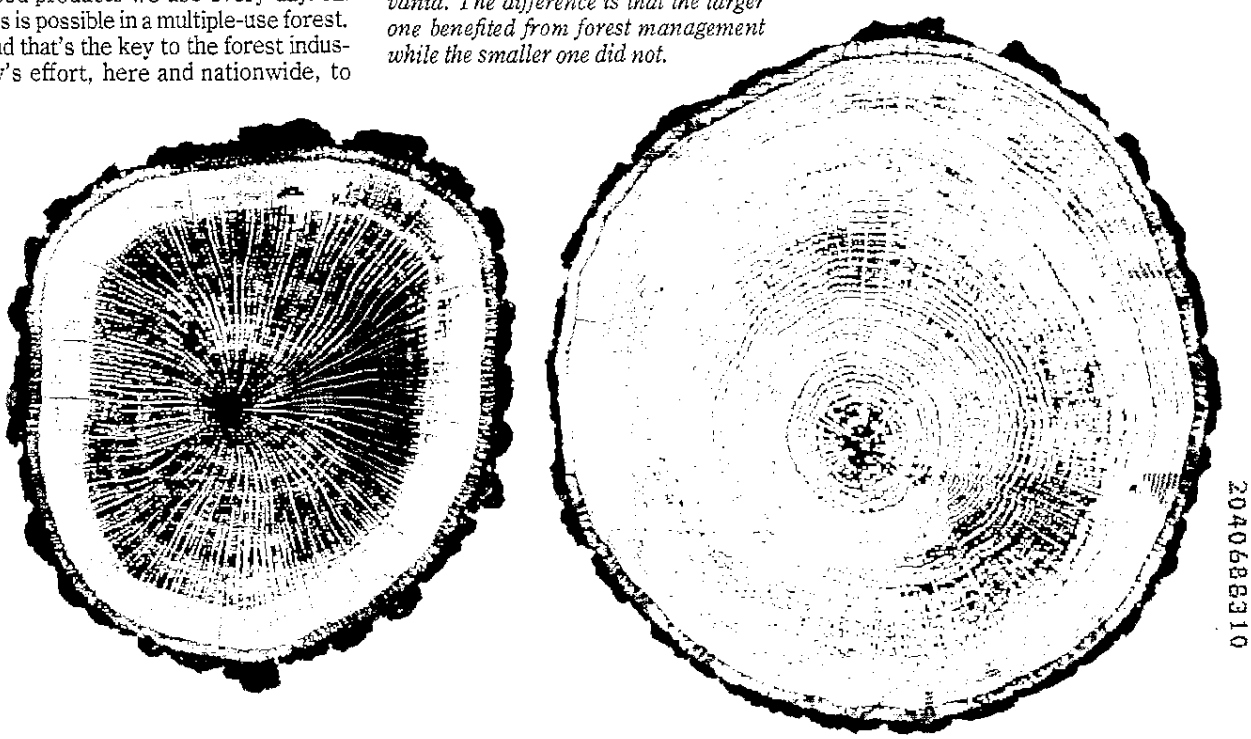
So there's progress in the Mid-Atlantic. And in forests all across the country. But we still have a long way to go.

For more information, write American Forest Institute, P.O. Box 873, Springfield, VA 22150.

**Commercial forest is forest capable of, and potentially available for, growing trees for harvest.*

American Forest Institute

These two red oak slices are shown here 42 percent of actual size. Both are the same age. And both grew in Pennsylvania. The difference is that the larger one benefited from forest management while the smaller one did not.



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